

SQUIRRELS

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY
2026

Welcome Back!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and Happy New Year to all of our Squirrels families. We hope you had a wonderful Christmas and are having a great start to the year!

2026 is set to be full of fun and learning, with plenty of hands-on activities and opportunities for your little ones to explore and grow. With dates of upcoming events and staff news, we hope our newsletter has everything you need to stay connected and make the most of the months ahead with us.

As always, there's lots going on in each of the settings so please do keep an eye out on Famly for regular updates and reminders!

Love, Squirrels x



Important Dates

Waterlooville Nursery

- Tuesday 10th February - Valentines Craft Day - parents welcome!
- Thursday 5th March - World Book Day, wear PJs or dress as a book character
- 20th, 21st and 22nd July - Inset Days (Closed to Term Time Only Children)

Waterlooville Preschool

- World Book Day - Thursday 5th March
- 20th, 21st and 22nd July - Inset Days (Closed to all)

Haselworth

- Thursday 7th May 2026 - Inset Day (Closed to Term Time Only Children)

St Marys

- Monday 9th February - Valentines Craft Day 2-3pm
- Friday 13th February 2026 - Inset Day (Closed to all)
- Thursday 5th March - World Book Day, dress as your favourite book character

TERM DATES & BANK HOLIDAYS

- 16th - 20th February - Half Term Week (Closed to Term Time Only Children)
- Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April - Easter Break (Closed to Term Time Only Children)
- Friday 3rd April - Bank Holiday (Closed to all)
- Monday 6th April - Bank Holiday (Closed to all)
- Monday 4th May - Bank Holiday (Closed to all)
- Monday 25th May - Bank Holiday (Closed to all)

UPDATES



What are we up to?

WATERLOOVILLE NURSERY

This term we are learning about our new topic, WINTER, learning new words and embedding them in each area. We will continue to learn new concepts through play.

We will be celebrating Chinese New Year with lots of fun activities and trying new foods/textures.

Please can parents bring in family pictures to share and put in the setting so that children can share who is important to them.

Tuesday 10th February we welcome parents to come in and celebrate Valentines Day with us!

Thursday 5th March is World Book Day and we will be celebrating our favourite book. We welcome children to come in dressed up or in PJs.

WATERLOOVILLE PRESCHOOL

It's bird week this week and we are on the lookout for all different types of birds in the garden. We will also be making our own binoculars and bird feeders!

Please do keep an eye out for our planning which is posted on Family each week to find out what your little ones will be up to.

Our topic for February is Under the Sea.

We will be celebrating Pancake Day on Tuesday 13th February.

Chinese New Year starts on 17th February and continues until 3rd March, marking the year of the horse. We will be trying new foods and planning lots of fun activities around the celebration. If anyone would like to bring anything in for the children to look at or try, we'd love to learn more about the culture!

In March we will be learning all about Spring and we will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 5th March - please dress as your favourite book character!

Reminders: Can we please ensure that lunch boxes and bottles are being properly cleaned each day. Can we also please make sure we are regularly checking children's hair for lice as we have had a case within the preschool. Thank you!

Reminders

Could we please ask you to provide the following for your child if you have not already:

- WATER BOTTLE
- CHANGE OF CLOTHES
- COAT/WATERPROOF CLOTHING
- NAPPIES & WIPES

Please ensure everything is named – thank you!

IMPORTANT: Please can we remind you to ensure that there are no nut products included in your child's lunches.



FEE INCREASE

Please note that from April 2026, our fees will be increasing to:

Under 2s - £9.50
2-5yrs - £ 8.50
5yrs+ £7.50

These new rates will be reflected in your invoices from 1st April. Thank you for your continued support so that we can continue to provide the best care for your children!

UPDATES



What are we up to?

ST MARYS

Welcome back to everyone at St Mary's! Although the first few weeks of the term have been very wet and cold, we are looking forward to a fun and exciting term ahead.

We have lots of engaging learning planned across the coming months.

In January, the children will be exploring winter, through sensory activities and discussions about seasonal changes.

February's topic will be Wheels, where we will learn about different types of transport.

March's topic is traditional stories, sharing much loved tales such as Goldilocks and the three bears, the three little pigs and Jack and the beanstalk, with a variety of activities lined to these stories.

Alongside our topics, we will also be celebrating:

Chinese New Year- Where we will be learning and experiencing different cultures as we welcome the year of the Horse

Valentines themed craft afternoon on 9th February 2pm-3pm

Pancake day (a week early as it falls during half term)

World Book Day (5th March) children are invited to come dressed as their favourite book character.

We have recently introduced a snack voting system in the pre-school room and the children have loved having the opportunity to vote for their snack choices.



HASELWORTH

So far, we have welcomed our new friends to the nursery and extended our dramatic play and loose-parts play areas.

We are excited to introduce our new balance bikes, which the children have been enjoying exploring in the garden, along with lots of new sensory toys in our lobby.

Employee of the Month

Each month, managers select one member of staff from each setting who has gone above and beyond in their work role.

Well done to our January Awardees!

WATERLOOVILLE NURSERY - Eleanor, for being amazing and always putting the setting first.

WATERLOOVILLE PRESCHOOL - Charley, for making each day and activity packed with fun and helping the children to achieve.

ST MARYS - Jessica, who has dedicated so much time and preparation into planning fantastic activities for the children, who have loved all of them.

HASELWORTH - Kayleigh, for her team work and creativity!



HOME RECIPE IDEA

EASY BANANA BREAKFAST COOKIES



Ingredients

MAKES 8 BIG COOKIES
5 MINS TO PREPARE AND 20
MINS TO COOK

These Easy Banana Breakfast Cookies with banana and peanut butter are the perfect healthy start to your morning – simple to make, healthy, high in protein, gluten-free and sugar-free.

- 3 Over-ripe bananas, Peeled
- 200 g (7 oz) Rolled oats
- 100 g (3.5 oz) Smooth peanut butter
- 50 g (2 oz) Runny honey
- 1 tsp Ground cinnamon
- 40g (1.5 oz) Chocolate chips, Optional



Method

- Preheat the oven to 180°C fan/200°C/Gas Mark 6/350F.
- Put everything into a bowl and mash and mix together very well. (Add half of the chocolate chips if using.)
- Scoop out into 8 cookie shapes on a lined baking tray. (Press the remaining chocolate chips in if using).
- Bake for 20 minutes. Allow to cool before moving from the baking tray to allow them to set.

NOTES:

- Use baking paper to line your baking tray to avoid sticking problems
- The bananas need to be very ripe for mashing, NOT firm or green at all. The banana skins should be very speckled, or (ideally) almost totally brown or black on the skins. Think ‘past their best’ as a piece of fruit for snacking on
- If you want a bigger batch of cookies, you could freeze the baked cookies and take them out to defrost the night before you’ll eat them, which is so handy for busy mornings

